

A Visit To Our State Museum

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

During a recent stay in Indianapolis, I decided to pay a visit to our State Museum. I was curious to see if it had changed much over the years. It hadn't. Neither dusting nor washing the glass cases would help much at this late date. Even if you could see through the glass, you might get trampled under foot as the State House employees "charge" through the corridors to get to their next coffee break.

Dirty rings on these glass cases testify that they're used by some visitors while they refresh themselves from the many soft-drink machines placed at regular intervals in the corridors. All the flat-topped cases are labeled with warning signs "Do Not Lean



Dorothy J. Clark On Case," but the loafers pay no attention.

I first remember the State Museum when Miss Ethel Ray took my eighth grade class from McLean Junior High School to Indianapolis. The day was spent visiting the State House, the State Legislature in session, the Soldiers and Sailors monument and meeting the Governor. I won't say how many years ago this has been, but I will say that the Governor I shook hands with that day was Gov. Paul V. McNutt.

Childhood Memories.

This happy childhood memory raced through my mind as I walked towards the front entrance of the State House, past the green bust of Robert Dale Owen, champion of women's rights, up the tall steps through the heavy carved doors into the marble lobby.

As you walk through the marble lobby, you pass the huge replica of the Liberty Bell. The legislature was in session so I hurried away from the hustle and bustle and retreated to the basement where the museum is housed. The basement corridors are crowded with old-fashioned glass show cases of all sizes, shapes and descriptions. Some are lighted, some are not.

Gun Collection.

Starting in the south corridor, you see first the wonderful gun collection housed in glass cases hanging on the wall. All the small arms are a part of the Von Ehrenstein collection. I listed some of the large guns: 1868 Merrill, 1859 Lawrence rifle, Sharps rifle, 1860 Henry rifle from Jeffersonville Prison, 1898 Springfield, Cap and Ball rifle, an old Flintlock given to Gov. O. P. Morton by Gov. Conrad Baker, Toder cap and ball rifle, German M78 rifle, Burnside rifle, 1848 C-Sharps rifle, a tiny old pistol found in 1830 near Pendleton.

Under this gun case I saw an African bow complete with poisoned arrows, and a gruesome Hawaiian criminal whip used before 1824 and containing over 300 shark teeth. Moving to my right, I next observed a large cross-cut section of the Constitutional Elm under

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which Indiana's Constitution was written. This historical exhibit was presented by the D.A.R. chapter at Corydon, Ind.

Many Other Relics.

In the same case was a piece of the Van Buren elm, another bit of Indiana history. Walking along, I saw such unrelated exhibits as a pan used for panning gold, some old china dolls with long dresses, a beautiful bisque doll with natural hair, and a wooden Irish doll brought to America in 1754.

Next was the Sullivan family collection. Here I saw the fore-runner of today's modern brief case. It was a leather wrapper used for carrying folded law-papers in 1875. This family had also given a silver-topped man's umbrella and an antique gilt-framed mirror, 2x3 feet, which had been in use since 1815.

Portable Desks.

From 1825 to 1880 almost every important member of a family possessed a portable desk in which was kept stationery, letters received and often important personal documents. A small container of sand was necessary to dry the ink. Paper blotters didn't come into use until about 1840. Some of

these portable desks had a secret drawer.

I peered in at old candle molds that would make twelve at one time, a cuff and collar box of the Gay Nineties, and a group of antique whiskey bottles. On top of one of the cases was an iron bell suspended from an iron pipe frame. This bell had been used on the mule-drawn canal boat "Jennie Lind" which floated up and down the Whitewater Canal.

Bird lovers would enjoy the huge stuffed birds including the rare white heron. Lighted cases were full of native Indiana song birds and all the many different bird eggs.

Those interested in Indian artifacts would understand the many, many cases of arrowheads, etc. I couldn't help smiling when I saw the old ironing board made of black walnut which was used in Gov. Jennings' mansion at Corydon.

Paradise of Antiques.

Lovers of antiques in general would drool over the luster pitchers, spoon holders, casters, Sandwich glass, candlesticks of brass, silver, china, etc., the Ironstone china and many household articles made of pewter.

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Overhead were displayed an ancient baby buggy complete with "fringe on top," spinning wheels, flax winders, and some of the larger pieces of farm equipment such as the scythes, rakes, wheat cradles, etc. I noted a tax receipt, dated 1840, which listed 30 acres of "upland," and poll tax was only 10 cents. Nearby was a 1922 crystal set radio.

The museum contains much of the Civil War period. You can see uniforms of both North and South with tarnished braid and rusty swords. There are many daguerrotypes, ambrotypes and tintypes of the men in uniform. I saw a Civil War discharge paper, yellowed but still legible. There is even a carpet bag in a wonderful state of preservation, along with every type of Civil War relic you can imagine.

Walking along further, I noted an 1850 accordion, framed hairwreaths and pressed flowers under glass, a Masonic lamb skin apron dated "prior to 1830" and a long-handled bed warmer. In one case were the uniforms of the Mexican War, of our American force and one of a Mexican officer dated 1842. Along with this was an 1843 edition of a Brother Jonathan patriotic illustrated newspaper.

Many Stuffed Animals.

To show the abundance of wild game in this state in 1865, there was a huge net used to catch quail. They must have been very plentiful to have made this profitable. Then I walked quickly past the cases of stuffed animals, trying to avoid their beady glass eyes. I'm allergic to dusty fur!

Speedway fans would enjoy the long framed picture of the fourth annual 500-mile race. There was a beautiful old brass auto horn which reminded me of a similar one still in our family. It was a Klaxon horn and could certainly "blow" any car off the road, if the driver didn't die of fright first!

I was interested in the charcoal irons and also a very unusual carbide iron as well as the old flat-irons. There was a tall beaver hat in one case which was labeled "Worn by five generations of the Carey family." The foot-long hat pins convinced me that it was entirely possible for ladies to defend themselves.

Historic Marker.

Longing for a breath of fresh air after all this dusty "looking," I walked out the east door to note this bit of information on a yard marker—"State Capitol was moved to Indianapolis in 1825 from Corydon. Capitol built on this site in 1835 was razed to make way for

the present State House completed 1888."

Indiana became a state in 1816, 141 years ago. The State Capitol has been located at Indianapolis since 1825, 132 years ago. How much longer do we have to wait for a State Museum we can be proud of? All Hoosiers should be thoroughly ashamed of the condition of their State Museum. We should all urge our State Legislators to do something about it.

Grand Prairie Viewed As Sweeping Grassland

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Clark, Dorothy
By DOROTHY J. CLARK

Life on the prairies proved strange to the immigrants who had been moving upon it even since the removal of the Indians had opened it for settlement in the early 1830's.

The Grand Prairie was a gigantic sweep of grassland stretching from northwest Indiana westward and southward to cover all of Illinois except "Egypt" the wooded southernmost tip of the state, and the timbered regions along the Mississippi River.

Surveyor D. Buck of New York writing in "Indiana As Seen By Early Travelers," observed: "I have seen a great deal of excellent land; the prairies on the Wabash in the vicinity of Fort Harrison (Terre Haute) exceed everything for richness of soil and beauty of situation I have ever beheld. It is difficult building in Knox County and always will be on account of scarcity of mill seats. Horse mills are common and the miller takes one-eighth part of the grain for toll; customers finding their own horses." (Finding meaning feeding).

"Wheat yields 68 pounds to the bushel and never gets winter killed or smutty. However, some of the land is too rich for wheat until it has been improved. Wheat is 75 cents a bushel; flour \$3 a hundred, delivered at Fort Harrison \$4; corn 25 cents a bushel; pork \$4 a hundred; beef \$4 a hundred; butter and cheese 12½ to 25 cents a lb.; honey 50 cents a gallon; and maple sugar 25 cents lb."



Dorothy Clark

The first white settlers built double log cabins in the groves on the edge of the open prairie, taking up claims of one-third timber and two-thirds cleared land. Hailing from wooded regions back east or down south, these early immigrants avoided building on the open prairie.

As many as 33 travelers, men of science, geographers, botanists, surveyors, and men of religion and politics, all roamed this favored place, Indiana and Illinois. Their diaries and day book entries cover the years from 1778 to 1833.

"Sullivan County consists of a beautiful, fertile, well-watered tract of country."

Rich Prairie

"Fort Harrison prairie is a most delightful tract containing about 32,000 acres. The woodland to the east of this prairie is an elevated tract of rich soil. Springs and streams flowing from it are numerous."

"If my conjectures are correct, these prairies will be sources of abundance through distant ages."

Always before in the westward push of American pioneers, settlers had followed a conventional pattern — chop down trees, put up log cabin, build rail fences, girdle more trees and while they deadened, grub under brush, burn off dead thickets, and slowly clear a field where

corn hills could stand between stumps. But here on the prairies nine out of ten settlers found an open plain, so barren of timber, so huge of expense as to bewilder, often frighten them—no stone or lumber for fences or houses or barns—no wood for fuel.

A proper organized society was impossible so long as the want of fencing material com-

pelled the people to form broken and scattered settlements on the margin of groves and streams while all between was a solitary waste.

The man who could devise cheap fencing and improve schools would take his place in western history. The issue was between the two theories of agriculture—the war between the monopolistic cattlemen working to keep the public range open so that their herds might graze on the unfenced and untaxed sea of grass, and the small farmers, the grain-growers, the anti-land monopolists, demanding enclosed fields and intensive farming.

Schools, rail fences, cattle and grain were all bound together in the struggle. In August when the coarse prairie grass grew dry, stock raisers of Illinois rounded up their steers from the far-flung range and either drove them to market or, more often, sold them to drovers who swept through the country heading eastward to Ohio where grass-fed steers were stuffed with hay and grain and later driven to seaboard markets.

In January, 1841, the "Prairie Farmer" advocated the Osage Orange Hedge as "the stoutest hedge in the world, through which neither man or animals can pass."

Timber was so scarce on the prairies that the typical "snake" fence was regarded as a waster of rails. The post-and-rail fence was more economical because it took less rails. Rail fences cost \$100 a mile at that time.

In 1850 Osage Orange Hedge plants cost \$25 for a mile fencing and would last for

many years. Wooden fences cost \$300 a mile and would be gone in twelve years. The wire fence as early as 1845 was being used and by 1848 was considered successful for all stock except hogs.

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First Indiana Prison

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Was Established in 1821

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

The first penal institution of importance in the State of Indiana was known as the "State Prison South," located at Jeffersonville. It was established in 1821 and was the only prison until 1859. Before that time it was customary to resort to the old-time punishment of the whipping post.

Later the manual labor system was inaugurated, and the convicts were hired out to employers. A more practical method of using convict labor was needed. Instead of the prisoners being permitted to serve private employers, their work was used for the benefit of the prisons.

For several years they were employed in erecting the new buildings at Jeffersonville. This structure, entirely the result of prison labor, stood on 16 acres of ground. The area included cell houses and workshops, together with the prisoners' garden, or pleasure-ground.

It seems that in the erection of these buildings the aim of the overseers was to create many petty dungeons and unventilated enclosures which resulted in very unhealthy living conditions. This was evident from the high mortality rate within the prison, and the government began to enact prison reforms to remedy the situation.

From 1857 to 1871 the labor of the prisoners was devoted to the manufacture of wagons and farm implements. Again the old policy of hiring convicts was resorted to.

In 1871 the Southwestern Car Company was organized and every prisoner capable of taking part in the work of car-building was leased out. This did very well until the panic of 1873 when the company suffered business losses and went bankrupt in 1876.

Sometime before this year the warden withdrew the convict labor a second time, allowing the prisoners to enjoy idleness in the prison which they themselves had helped to build.

In later years the State Prison South gained much notoriety from the desperate character of some of its inmates. During the Civil War, a convict named Harding mutilated in a most horrible manner and ultimately killed one of the jailers named Tesley.



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In 1874, two prisoners named Kennedy and Applegate managed to get possession of firearms, and, joined by two other convicts named Port and Stanley, made a break for freedom. They swept past the guard, Chamberlain, and gained the fields. Chamberlain went in pursuit but had not gone very far when Kennedy turned and fired, killing him instantly. Subsequently three of the prisoners were captured alive. One of them paid the death penalty, while Kennedy, the murderer of Chamberlain, failed committal for murder and was sent back to his old cell to spend the remainder of his life.

Continued On Page 5, Col. 1.

Bill Rodifer, better known as "The Hoosier Jack Sheppard," effected his escape in 1875, in the very presence of a large guard, but was recaptured and ten years later was still kept in irons.

In 1859, the first steps were taken to erect a prison in the northern part of the state. It was not until 1885 that authority was finally given to construct prison buildings at some point north of the National Road. \$50,000 was appropriated and a large number of convicts from Jeffersonville Prison were transported north to Michigan City, the site selected for the new penitentiary.

The system of government and discipline was similar to that enforced at Jeffersonville Prison, but its financial condition was much improved. The convicts were employed in the manufacture of cigars and chairs, but primarily in cooperage, the great prison industry.

The prison reform agitation in Indiana grew to alarming proportions in 1869. This led to the establishment of a female reformatory in 1873. All female convicts in the state prisons were then sent to what was later called the "Indiana Reformatory Institution for Women and Girls," located in Indianapolis. This new French-style three-story brick building housed 66 women convicts and 147 girls in 1879.

Juvenile delinquents were a state problem as early as 1867 when the legislature appropriated \$50,000 to set up an institution for the correction and reformation of juveniles. A farm of 225 acres was purchased near Plainfield, and buildings erected for this institution.

Mrs. Anna E. Palmateer, one of the first women to have police power in Terre Haute, was actively engaged in prison reform work in Indiana. Her duties included visiting the jails in every county to see that they were clean and properly kept.

Jail Matron Bill

Born and raised in Terre Haute, she was the daughter of Richard Broadhurst, who started in the coal business here in 1838. In her early 30s she began social reform work in Terre Haute, working in the slum areas, at the jail and police station. She was responsible for religious services held at the jail. For several years she served as police matron without pay, but was given police power when she was placed in charge of the Friendly Inn. She was one of the prime movers in securing passage of the jail matron bill and also of the bill abandoning the striped uniforms at the Southern prison. Because of this, Warden Hert presented to her the last striped suit at Jeffersonville Prison. This suit was recently presented to the Historical Museum by her grand-

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daughter, Miss Janet Stofer.

The local Fresh Air Mission was entirely due to her efforts, persuading Charles M. Minshall to donate his property for the location of the camp. She was responsible for the Claude Herbert Memorial Fountain at Fifth and Washburn, and active in the fund-raising drive. Active in the local Florence Crittenton Home, and other local charity efforts for 25 years, she accepted the position as assistant superintendent in the New York Florence Crittenton Home.

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Bought at 6½ cents per acre

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Before it was Hoosierland Indiana was Indian land

In 1816, when Indiana was admitted as a state, the Indians held most of its 36,291 square miles. Along the Wabash, Whitewater and Ohio rivers stretched narrow ribbons of white settlements, a log-cabin frontier that was slowly but surely closing in on the Miami Indians. Squatters invaded non-treaty land, and there was a mounting demand by the settlers for the area between the Whitewater and the Wabash.

The Miamis reluctantly signed a treaty ceding over four million acres of land in 1818. The Indians received approximately six and a half cents an acre for the New Purchase described as "the most fertile part of the state of Indiana and as desirable as any land in the Northwest."

Sanford Cox wrote in 1820: "The natural scenery of the Wabash Valley as it was found by the first settler—was beautiful and picturesque. Hills and dales, forests and prairies, grottos, rivulets and rivers checkered and diversified every portion of it."

When public land sales were opened, in Vincennes and Crawfordsville, the pioneers from Ohio, Kentucky, and other states came in oxcarts, on horseback and on foot hoping to bid for choice sections of land and determined to outwit the land speculators.

A rifle-toting man might loudly ask his companion pushing through the crowd with a hangman's rope dangling from his arm: "John, do you need any help clearing out those skunks that are messing up your quarter section?"

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And John would reply: "I think those varmints are too smart to hang around where they ain't wanted." John's message usually prevailed, and the unregistered owner was able to bid in his improved land at the government price of \$1.25 an acre.

Many prosperous and forward-looking people were attracted to the new settlements. The removal of the Miami Indians assured the new residents of freedom from Indian attacks, and by 1824, the emigration into the Wabash Valley was in full swing.

Whether the pioneers came from the South, the Middle states or New England they faced difficult if not hazardous conditions. Families used stagecoaches, canal boat, steamboat and freight wagons to reach this area.

Virginians traveled by wagon through the Appalachians, loaded their horses and conveyances on flatboats to negotiate the Ohio, then disembarked at Madison to complete the journey overland. This last stage was the most difficult, for roads in the New Purchase were of the most primitive.

The word "freedom" seemed to have a peculiar significance for the

Hoosier pioneer, and this was especially the case with "free church." Religious groups of Indiana's pioneer period expressed addiction to freedom by engaging in sectarian controversies and in establishing dissenting churches. "Circuit riders" were as much a part of the frontier society as the pioneer doctor or the surveyor.

The Baptist Church split into two factions, and the liberals united with the Christian church. The Presbyterians also split, but all denominations continued to flourish and thrive.

Schools and churches were closely allied on the frontier, many times meeting in the same log building, and the same pioneer interested in church was also promoting a school.

The free press appeared soon after, and here again transportation of a press and newsprint was the big difficulty. What the modern day historian would do without the old newspapers to delve into is a puzzle.

First of the pioneer industries was the gristmill for bread, with wheat or corn as literally "the staff of life." Organized groups of settlers often brought with them the miller and millstone, prepared to construct a

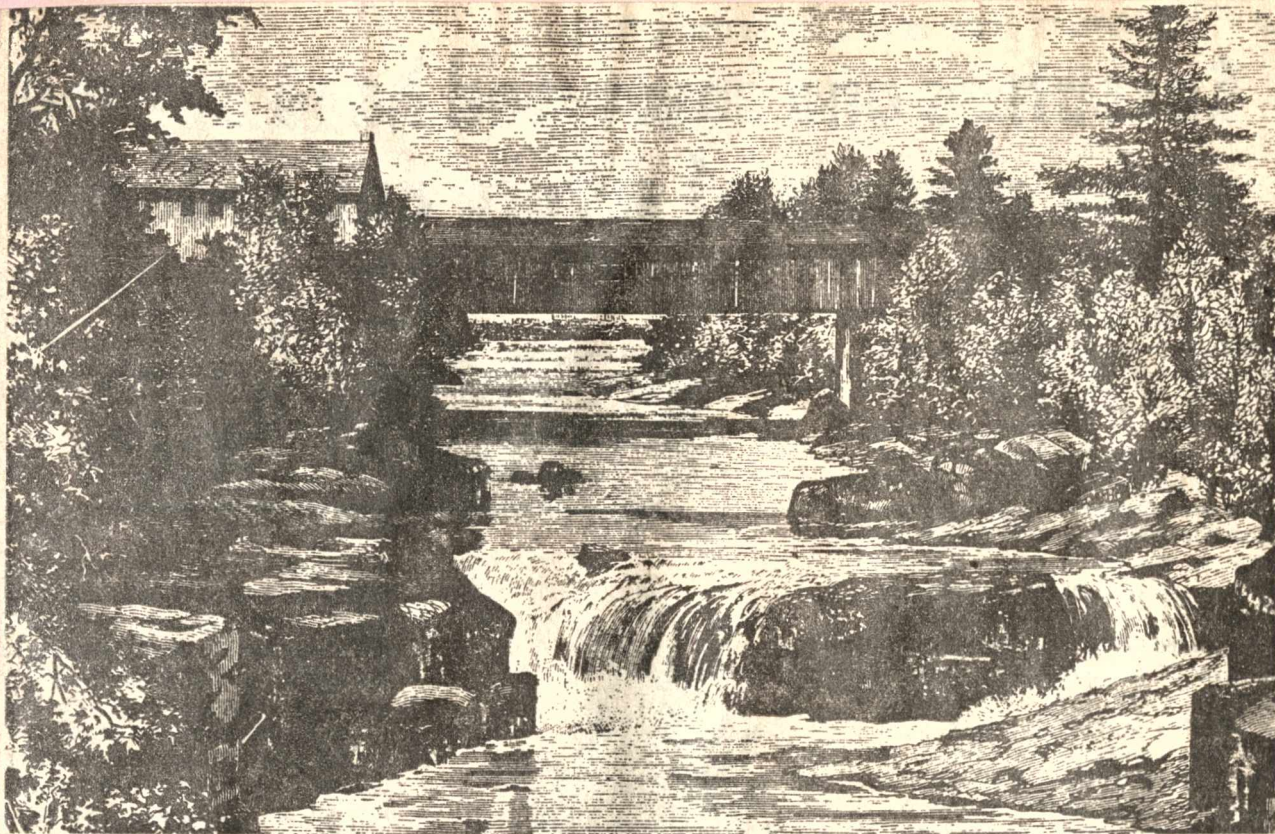
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Covered bridge at Markle's Mill

building and a mill-race at the first feasible location.

Markle's Mill was one of the earliest in the Valley, when Otter Creek carried a greater head of water than it does now. The great wooden wheel moving in slow cadence, the ponderous, unhurried millstone and the placid millpond are reminders of an age that moved with the speed of the oxcart or canal boat.

To the pioneer youth, however, the mill was a fascinating and busy place where he could see both men and machines. Here he could watch water from the millrace turn the paddle wheel, whose shaft powered the gears that turned the upper millstone as it ground the grain into flour or meal against the lower millstone.

The miller took his pay in kind by taking one-eighth to one-fourth of the processed grain. Whatever the charge the farmer felt it was too high. The mill, the church, and the tavern made up a community center, and in many cases became the nucleus of a small village.

Water-power sawmills developed in connection with the gristmills and were welcomed by the pioneer as a great improvement on the helving axe or the crosscut saw. Cutting boards was an awkward and long-drawn-out process, but it was better than the hand method and many of the early frame houses were built of the rough hardwood boards produced by local mills.

Some of the corn brought to

Markle's Mill was turned into another product, "corn whiskey". Major Markle found it profitable to run a "still" also.

Next came blacksmiths, woolen mills, cooper shops, tanneries, breweries, and all the other small industries necessary to the community.

Regardless of their state of origin, the self-elected residents of the Wabash Valley were quick to take up the ideas of the pioneer community and became "Westernized". The intermarriage of the young people of Eastern and Southern origins with those who came directly from Europe soon completed the transformation, and by 1850 local people became "Hoosiers".

When Miami meant Indiana instead of Florida

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When the white man came to the Wabash Valley, the Indians had practically ceased their long warfare and were living quietly. They had no large villages here or places of permanent residence. As was their custom for generations, they moved with the seasons wherever there was plenty of game, fishing, shelter, and fertile ground to grow their small crops.

The first white settlers saw all along the banks of the creeks and rivers circular holes in which the Indians had cooked their food, and at night slept upon the ground with their feet hanging down in the warm places made by the dying campfires. Supported by poles, the coverings of deerskins, buffalo robes or tree bark kept off the elements and were easily portable.

They called the Wabash river "Wabashshikka." The French called it "Ouabache." The Vermillion was called "Osanamon," but the French gave it the name signifying the color of rock formations along its banks. The Indians used this for their war paint and other decoration.

The Miamis occupied a portion of what is now Vermillion County, but their general territory was east of the Wabash. Then there were the Kickapoos, or Mosquitans, originally from north and northwest, who occupied regions south and southwest of the Big Vermillion river, but occasionally camped north of the Vermillion on their neighbor's territory.

The Pottawatomies, also a northern tribe, owned the territory and their rights were recognized by the government in treaties. Vermillion County at that time had been the home of each tribe who had their headquarters at Big Springs, a half

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mile south of Eugene, and the place known among the whites as Springfield.

There the councils of their confederacy were held and decisions as to wars and other troubles adjusted. Here the great treaty with the British merchants was made, and the governor of Virginia took possession of immense tracts of land on the lower Wabash.

Many of the early settlers recollected the meetings held there, involving 800 to 1,000 Indians. The Pottawatomies were described as "of subdued disposition, somewhat stoop-shouldered and of unpleasant countenance." The Kickapoos were a war-like race, quarreling with all other tribes, and "only happy when giving and receiving hard blows."

On the other hand, the Miamis were described as "tall and straight, of handsome countenance, especially the maidens, and were brave and terrible as enemies, kind and faithful as friends."

It is believed that the French missionaries passed down or up the Wabash river as early as 1702, possibly earlier. Being Jesuits, they were successful in winning converts among the savages. Near the Indian village on Section 16, Township 17, Range 9 West, a white oak tree was cut down, and the rings of growth over the scar made by a white man's axe showed that the incision was made not later than 1720.

It was about 1790 when General Hamtramck led his expedition of Indian volunteers and militia from Vincennes to attack the non-aggressive Indians and their village near the mouth of the Vermillion. This was the favorite camping ground for the

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weakened remnants of the Pottawatomies and Kickapoos. Here, where the river came together, was an excellent place to catch fish, which were plentiful then. The terrace lands above were filled with thousands of plum bushes and grapevines, and it was known as the "great plum patch."

Marching in two columns, the expedition crossed the Indian ford at Eugene, just north of where the mill dam was later constructed. Half the men marched in a circle to attack the village in the rear, while the other division attacked it from the south. The warriors were off on a hunting expedition, and there were none to defend the old men, women and children. It is no wonder that later on the Indians of this region took part in the battles of Falling Timbers and Tippecanoe.

La Chappelle is the name of the first trading post established in the Vermillion village, near Hamtramck's battleground, the northwest quarter of Section 33, Township 18, Range 9 West, by M. Laselle, later one of the distinguished citizens of Logansport, Ind.

Another trading post was established later by an Englishman on what was to become known as the John Collett farm, Sections 9 and 16. It was the custom of the French

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traders here to strike small medals, less than the size of the present day quarter, with a few figures and initial letters on them, and tack them on the trees at the mouth of the tributaries claimed, as a sign of possession.

The Indians at the southern end of Vermillion County did their trading at stockades in Sullivan and Knox counties. Among the earliest traders were two brothers, Frenchmen, named Brouillet. For one reason or another, the Indians of that region hated one of the brothers. He was captured and brought to their village, near the mouth of a creek, south of Clinton, that now bears his name.

It was decided to burn him at the stake, and he was tied to the stake

with buckskin thongs. After the men had finished their talking, the squaws, according to Indian custom, had a right to be heard. An aged squaw, who had lost a son in warfare, demanded the right to adopt the prisoner as a substitute for her lost son.

This privilege was usually granted, but for some reason her demand was refused, in spite of her pleas. In her wild determination to have her way (even then women had to have the last word), she seized a knife and, before anyone could interfere, cut the prisoner loose, pointed to a canoe on the sandy shore of the Wabash, and told him to run and save his life if he could. He ran. Pushing the canoe out into the water as far as possible, he sprang aboard and, lying flat in the its bottom, managed to paddle it into the current beyond the range of the Indians' rifles and escaped. This incident gave the stream its name, "Brouillet's Creek."

The Brouillets took wives from the Miami tribe. The wife of the elder Brouillet belonged to the family of

the tribal chief and, on his death, she returned to her people. Her children, according to law, were entitled to their proper home and position among her people.

Her eldest son grew up an enthusiastic and vigorous young man, and became one of the chiefs of the Miamis. Through his influence, he was able to settle any difficulties with his white neighbors as they steadily encroached on his territory. He was able to prevent the butchering episodes of Indian warfare and retaliation.

On a surveying trip through the then swampy lands of Hendricks and Montgomery counties, Joseph Collett Sr. found that his camp was without provision. He persuaded the other men in the party to leave him in a little tent on the bank of Raccoon creek as he was too ill to travel, get some food, and return to help him.

Chief Brouillet came to help instead, cooking and caring for him until he was recovered. Fifty years later, Collett spoke of his friend as "kind as he was brave."

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When all Hoosierland was a kind

Courts & Judges in Vigo Co

At a very early date, Indiana attained fame as a state where a divorce was easily obtained...much the same reputation Nevada and Mexico have now.

The fact that the first trial court action in Vigo County was a divorce case is further proof of its prevalence in Hoosierland.

The first circuit court in Vigo County was held at the home of Truman Blackman near Fort Harrison on the fourth Monday of April, 1818. Moses Hoggatt and James Barnes were the associate judges.

After the court had completed its organization and the usual court proceedings were out of the way, it adjourned to meet the following day at the house of Henry Redford in Terre Haute.

The first suit between adverse parties, in which an entry appears of record in Vigo County, was a divorce action brought by Elenor Garber against Peter Garber. She alleged in her petition that her delinquent consort had abandoned her "without just cause or provocation."

Mrs. Garber had plenty of cause against her worse half, but because divorces were less common in those days and not to be lightly disposed of, much evidence was taken and the court took the case under advisement. The final decree was not given until the last of July.

In May, 1819, the second divorce case was tried at the term of court held in the home of Robert Harrison in Terre Haute.

A divorce case that was decided in

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1823 cost the litigants \$71. The sheriff's fee was \$40, the clerk's fee \$10, bailiff's fee \$18, and \$3 for the jury room.

Until 1853, the statutes of Indiana and the rules of practice as to the granting of divorce were about the same as in other states. A proceeding to obtain a divorce was by petition of the aggrieved party in the nature of a bill of chancery.

Heretofore, a person applying for a divorce was required to have been a bona-fide resident of this state two years before application could be made. In forming the new revision in December, 1851, the state legislature by some means, either by accident or devious intention, left out this provision.

The word spread, and discontented husbands and wives rushed in from other states, east, west, north and south, and appealed to

Indiana courts for relief from matrimonial burdens. The code took effect May 6, 1853 and was not corrected until the next session of the legislature. The law requiring two years residence was restored.

However, during the few months in which the two years quarantine was annulled, so many gathered up their trunks and satchels and came to Indiana, obtained divorces and fled immediately, that the fame of it spread across the country. It's much easier to start a scandal than it is to stop it.

From this unfortunate incident in the judicial history of Indiana the state acquired a reputation for "looseness" in this particular feature of the administration of the law.

Petit larceny which fills most criminal dockets is noticeable by its absence from the first court book of Vigo County. Either people were more honest, the town was so small that thieving could not be profitably carried on, or the line between mine and thine was not so closely drawn in those days.

For some reason, thieving was almost unknown then, and the common charge in the courts was assault and battery. Indeed, fighting seems to have been the chief amusement of that time, and any man who had a little spare time on his hands went out on the corner and started a fight.

The complement of assault and battery in our day, provoke, was unknown. For if one man called another names, he was prepared to back it up and hit him too, so that the other always had something more tangible than provoke to complain of to the court.

There is a tradition that the grand jury of the first court in 1818, after being charged by the prosecuting attorney, retired to a log just outside the cabin in which court was convened, and here went through the forms of their short session.

However, the records made by the clerk, Curtis Gilbert, says they "re-

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tired to their room." It is safer to follow Gilbert's record than tradition. He was one of the best circuit clerks in the state, and the exact and beautifully written records he left of his 21 years of service are his monument. He was the all-around clerk,

recorder and auditor for Vigo County.

His peculiar chirography, as even and beautiful as copper-plate, all made with the old style goose quill, has never been equalled by any of his successors in any of the offices he held.

Historically speaking

Clark, Dorothy

T s JUN 20 1982

Indiana

A look at Hoosier and

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

Jim Guthrie's efforts during Indiana's Sesquicentennial to furnish interesting Hoosier stories to the news media for publication were well researched. This one on the terminology of "Hoosier" and "Indiana" answers a frequently asked question.

Governor Joseph Wright has been quoted as saying that "Hoosier" derived from an Indian word for corn. He said the Indian word was "hoosa" and that Indiana boatmen taking corn down the Mississippi became known as "hoosa men." No one has been able to find the word "hoosa" in any Indian vocabulary, but Governor Wright's explanation is as good as the next one, which is:

A contractor named Hoosier worked on the Louisville and Portland Canal around the falls of the Ohio. He employed only Indiana men and his crew got to be known as "Hoosier's men" and eventually all people from Indiana became Hoosiers. Or, if that account doesn't hold up there's:

The "hushing up" theory which relates that Indiana rivermen were so renowned for thoroughly trouncing adversaries in brawls that they became known as "hushers" and eventually, Hoosiers. Probably the best-known tale is:

The visitor to the lonely cabin story, which states that whenever a stranger approached a pioneer cabin in the wilderness it was common courtesy for the settlers to greet the visitor with, "Who's yere?" and of course, that degenerated (or regenerated) into Hoosier. If this doesn't appeal to Indianians they might try:

Historian Jacob P. Dunn's version that the word Hoosier was an appellation common in the South for rough, uncouth persons. Early pioneers in Indiana were of this sort and as the expression came to be dropped in the South, its application was localized in Indiana. Still, there's a legend around the Falls which states:

A rough fight between a couple of stalwart antagonists, one a resident of Clarksville and the other a stranger, resulted in victory for the stranger. After the fight the victor was asked who he was and he replied by waving his hands and striking his fists together and saying in broken English, "I am a Husser," hence the word. But there are other versions such as:

The strange habit of Indiana boys, when flatboating down the Ohio to the Mississippi, of jumping up and cracking their heels together while at the same time shouting "Huzza," which made them known as "huzza boys" and eventually, you know what. Still another version of the etymology of the word in question is:

Hoose was a word to denote a disease common to calves. Symptoms of this ailment were staring eyes, rough coat with hair turned backward and hoarse wheezing. As Hoosiers let's not pursue this one but go on to:

An old French version from around Vincennes, which simply states that the first white men (the French) called the boondocks country southeast of Vincennes, "houshier" country from a French word meaning bushy or brushy place. But then Mr. Webster says:

"Hoojee" or "hoojin" means dirty

person or tramp; continues with "hoozer" an English dialect word meaning "anything unusually great"; "huzur" is an Indian word for addressing persons of rank; and "Howsha," a word for a village authority in Bengal.

Former state historian, Hubert H. Hawkins, says the word Hoosier came into general use in the 1830s and that it was widely used even in that day. It was spelled both "Hooshier" and "Hoosier."

No matter where it originated or what it may once have meant, the people of Indiana have made it an honorable appellation and wear it proudly.

And now, after giving the matter a lot of time in research and ending with no conclusion and quoting most authorities, who's yer choice?

The word "Indiana" like the word "Hoosier" is another lost name as far as origin is concerned. Strangely, no one knows where the word came from or who gave it to our state!

The name Indiana predates the Territory by many years and seems to have first been used by an Indian trading company.

A Thomas Hutchins map of 1778 shows a tract of some 5,000 square miles in a triangle formed by the Little Kanawha and Ohio rivers and the western ranges of the Alleghany Mountains, with the name Indiana.

Checking farther back it is found that a fur trading company was formed in Philadelphia in 1762 and this company established a trading post on the Ohio River a short distance below the site of Wheeling, W. Va. In 1763 the post was attacked by Iroquois warriors who made off with an estimated half

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million dollars worth of property. The loss resulted in a reorganization of the company and its proprietors renamed it The Indiana Company.

In suits and actions which followed, the Iroquois (or Six Nations as they were called) ceded the company the vast tract shown on Hutchin's map and the new owners called it "Indiana." Considerable difficulties followed and Virginia refused to recognize the company's title to the land and eventually it became a part of that state. The Indiana Company passed out of existence by 1798.

Two years later, when the Territory Northwest of the Ohio was divided, a name had to be found for the western part. The name of the defunct Indiana across the Ohio seemed to be equally applicable to this country and so, in some way now lost to history, the application was made. The Indiana Territory north of the Ohio river was formed. In the subdivisions that followed, our State was the first to take on permanent boundaries and it retained the name. It is generally agreed that the name may be interpreted "the land of the Indians."

In western Pennsylvania there is an Indiana County, which name is probably a reminiscence of the old Virginia tract. This county was not organized until 1802 so it is obvious that our state was not named for this locale.

Indiana Territory, when created, included most of the old Northwest. For a time a large portion of the Louisiana purchase was administered from Vincennes. And finally, in 1816, in much reduced form, Indiana became the 19th state.

Hoosiers adopt famous names

By Dorothy J. Clark

Today's column continues the rundown of Indiana's counties and how their names were taken from famous people and places.

Noble County was named for Gov. Noah Noble. Ohio County was named for the Ohio River. Orange County gained its name from the county in North Carolina from which the settlers came in 1802. Colonel William Owen, killed in the Battle of Tippecanoe, gave his name to Owen County.

Parke County was named for Benjamin Parke, congressman, U.S. Judge and first president of the Indiana Historical Society. Perry County was named for Commodore Oliver H. Perry who said, "We have met the enemy and they are ours."

Pike County was named for General Zebulon Montgomery Pike of "Pike's Peak" fame. Porter County was named for David Porter, American naval officer. Thomas Posey, neighbor of Washington and later Governor of Indiana Territory, gave him name to Posey County.

Another Polish nobleman, County Pulaski, was honored for his part in the Revolutionary War with the naming of Pulaski County. General Isreal Putnam, another officer of that early war, was honored by the organizers of Putnam County.

Randolph County was named for Thomas Randolph, attorney-general of the Indiana Territory, who was killed at Tippecanoe. Pioneer philanthropist, Dr. Benjamin Rush, gave his name to Rush County.

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Ripley County was named for General Eleazor Ripley, a noted officer in the War of 1812.

Scott County was named for General Charles Scott, officer of the Revolution and later Governor of Kentucky. The first Governor of Kentucky, Isaac Shelby, was honored by Shelby County. Captain Spier Spencer, killed at Tippecanoe, was honored at Spencer County.

Starke County was named for General John Starke, an American military man. Steuben County was named for Baron Augustus William Frederick Von Steuben, appointed Inspector-General who established discipline and instructed the Revolutionary forces in military tactics.

St. Joseph County was named for the Catholic saint by the French priests who first settled there in 1686. Sullivan County was named for Daniel Sullivan, Conestoga wagon driver who was killed by Indians while hauling merchandise from Louisville to Vincennes. He was also a scout and messenger for General William Henry Harrison.

Switzerland County was named for the homeland of the first settlers and for the similarity in topography. Tippecanoe County was named for General William Henry Harrison who became known as "Old Tippecanoe" after his victory at the Battle of Tippecanoe.

Tipton County was named for John Tipton, organizer of several Indiana

counties. He was commissioned a Colonel during the Battle of Tippecanoe, and later served as U.S. Senator from Indiana, 1832-39.

Union County was named for the peace it brought after its organization between adjoining counties of Fayette, Franklin and Wayne counties. Vanderburgh County was named for Henry Vanderburgh, captain in the Revolutionary War and first Judge of the Indiana Territory in 1800.

Vermillion County was named for the Vermillion River which ran red from the coloring of the clay in pioneer days. The ochre was used by the Indians for war paint and dyes.

Vigo County was named for Colonel Francis Vigo. Wabash County was named for its location on the Wabash River. Joseph Warren, a Revolutionary officer killed at Bunker Hill in 1775, gave his name to Warren County. Captain Jacob Warrick, who fell on the Tippecanoe battlefield, was honored by Warrick County.

Obviously, Washington County was named for George Washington. Wayne County was named for General Anthony "Mad Anthony" Wayne, another hero of the Revolution. Wells County was named for Captain Wells who was captured by the Indians at the age of 10 and adopted by Little Turtle, Miami chieftain. White County was named for Colonel William Whitley who

came to Indiana in 1812 from Kentucky. He fell in the Battle of Thames, Canada, under General Harrison fighting against the British and Indians in 1813. White County was named for Colonel Isaac White, killed at the Battle of Tippecanoe.

Two of the most frequently asked questions concern the correct pronunciation of "Vigo" and the true meaning of the term "Hoosier." Those who have made a study of local history can answer the first question. A proper name is pronounced as its owner wishes it to be.

Since Francis Vigo was an Italian, born in Sardinia, his name was pronounced as the Latin "VEEGO" as he pronounced it himself. It follows that present day pronunciation is the Latin version.

As for the term "Hoosier," it stems from pioneer days when a person rode up within hailing distance of a log cabin in an Indiana forest clearing. The traveler would call out, "Who's here?"

Some sort of greeting was necessary to warn the cautious cabin-dweller that someone was coming so he wouldn't shoot first and ask questions later.

The squirrel rifle was always handy, and after a few Indian scares or signs of bear or panther, the settlers were always inclined to be trigger happy. The derivation of "Hoosier" or "Who's here?" was a kind of password for both host and arriving guest.

The study of the derivation of Hoosier names for people and places is one of the most fascinating topics of local history.

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Hoosier counties sport famous names

Ts OCT 9 1983

By Dorothy J. Clark

Names of Indiana's 92 counties were taken from many places and famous people. Some of the names were chosen for obvious reasons, but some seem far-fetched, particularly to those not versed in Hoosier history.

Adams County was named for John Adams, first vice president and second president of the United States. Allen County was named for Colonel John Allen, hero of the War of 1812. An early pioneer Indian fighter, General Joseph Bartholomew, gave his name to Bartholomew County.

Benton and Blackford counties were named for two noted jurists, Colonel Thomas Benton and Isaac Blackford. Brown County was named for Colonel Jacob Brown, War of 1812 hero. Daniel Boone furnished the name for Boone County.

Charles Carroll, only survivor of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, died at the age of 95 years in 1828, the year Carroll County was organized. Cass County was named for Lewis Cass, another hero of the War of 1812. Clark County proudly bears the name of George Rogers Clark. Noted statesman and politician, Henry Clay, was the choice for Clay County. When Clinton County was organized in 1830, George Clinton was the Governor of New York.

Crawford County was named in honor of Colonel William Crawford, a land agent under George Washington and Revolutionary War veteran who was burned at the stake by the Indians at the defeat of Fallen Timbers.

Daviess County was named in recognition of Joseph Daviess who

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was made a captain on the Tippecanoe battlefield. Another hero of the Revolutionary period, General Henry Dearborn, who served as Secretary of War under President Jefferson, gave his name to Dearborn County. Decatur County was named for Stephen Decatur, famous for his statement, "My country, right or wrong."

Baron Johann de Kalb, noted Bavarian supporter of 1776, was honored by De Kalb County. Delaware County was named for the Delaware Indian tribe. Touissant Dubois, chief scout for General William Henry Harrison, was honored by having Dubois County named for him.

A natural formation near the confluence of the Little Elkhart and the St. Joseph rivers which is shaped like the heart of an elk, gave Elkhart County its name.

Fayette County is an abbreviated version of the name of General Marquis de la Marie Jean Paul Roche Gilbert Motier Lafayette. Floyd County was named for Colonel John Floyd of the distinguished Virginia family who were killed by Indians just across the river in pioneer times.

Fountain County was named for Major Fountain who was killed in the battle of the Maumee near Fort Wayne in 1790. Franklin County was named for Benjamin Franklin. The inventor of the steam engine, Robert Fulton, gave his name to Fulton County.

Gibson County was named for General John Gibson, acting Governor of Indiana Territory from 1801 to 1806 while Harrison was off fighting Indians. Grant County was

named after the Grant brothers who were killed by Indians in 1798. The county seat, Marion, was named for Frances Marion, the "Swamp Fox" of Revolutionary fame. Another hero of that war, General Nathaniel Greene, gave his name to Greene County.

Hamilton County was named for Alexander Hamilton, first Treasurer of the U.S. The first signer of the Declaration, John Hancock, was honored by Hancock County. Harrison County was named in honor of General William Henry Harrison, first Governor of Indiana Territory and later President of the U.S.

The second Governor of Indiana, William Hendricks, was honored by the founders of Hendricks County. Henry County was named for the fiery patriot, Patrick Henry, who said, "Give me liberty or give me death."

Howard County was originally organized as Richardville County, named for the Indian chieftain of that name. It became the 90th county in 1844, the year Tilghman Howard died, so the name was changed to honor him.

Huntington County was named for the Hon. Samuel Huntington, signer of the Declaration and a Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. Jackson County was named for Andrew Jackson. Jasper County was named for Sgt. William Jasper who was famous for leaping the parapet at Fort Moultrie and rescuing the colors. John Jay, another Chief Justice, was the name chosen for Jay County.

Jefferson County was named for Thomas Jefferson. Jennings County was named for Jonathan Jennings,

first state governor of Indiana. John Johnson, who codified the first Indiana laws, was chosen to be honored by Johnson County. Knox County was named for Colonel Henry Knox, friend of George Washington.

Kosciusko County was named after General Thadeusz Kosciusko, Polish patriot, soldier and nobleman who came to America to fight in the Revolutionary War. La Grange County was named for the French residence of General Lafayette. Lake County was named for its geographical position on the shore of Lake Michigan.

La Porte County was named for the natural wide opening in the timberland near the sand dunes, meaning "open door." Lawrence County was named after James Lawrence, famous naval officer who said, "Don't Give Up the Ship." Marion County was named for the heroic "Swamp Fox" previously mentioned. Marshall County was named for Chief Justice Marshall, and Madison County for James Madison, fourth President of the U.S.

Martin County was named for Major Martin of Kentucky who was killed in the Battle of Tippecanoe in 1811. Miami County was named for the Indian tribe of that name. James Monroe, fifth U.S. President, gave his name to Monroe County.

Montgomery, Morgan and Newton counties were all named for Revolutionary War military men, General Richard Montgomery, Daniel Morgan and Sgt. John Newton. Formed in 1859 and first called "Beaver County," Newton County was the 92nd and last Indiana county to be organized.

Next week's column will continue with Indiana's counties and how they got their names.

Life in the Indiana wilds

Men, women, kids earned living

**Clark, Dorothy* **Pioneer Life (1904)*

Community Affairs File J s OCT 6 1985

The land was still covered with heavy timber when the pioneer family settled in the Wabash Valley.

One evening about dark, when the mother was alone with the men gone to the mill some distance away, the task of bringing in the cows fell to her. So she went into the timber and soon lost her way. Unable to retrace her steps, she was wandering around, lost, when she found one of the cows that had a bell on. She held on to the cow's collar all night hoping the bell would attract the attention of anyone out looking for her.

It wasn't until after daylight that the anxious searchers found her. It was the custom to turn the cows out into the timber to graze, and sometimes they would wander quite a distance from the log cabin home.

Another time her husband was out hunting the cattle when he shot and killed a large yellow rattlesnake measuring 6 feet 3 inches,

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By Dorothy Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star.

the largest snake ever seen in that area. He had the skin stuffed to show doubters what the new country could grow.

Two families traveled together to locate their land in the wilds of Indiana. The two-horse wagons were wide and heavy, and good roads were not available, so two or three times a day they were stalled. In places it was necessary to cut

their way through the forest, and the children drove the teams.

Bringing 10 sheep along, they had been warned that wolves would eat the sheep the first night out unless they were penned up in a tight enclosure. A dozen or more wolves came up to the campsite but were frightened off by the almost constant firing of guns. It was necessary to pen those sheep up for years to protect them from wolves. In times of bad weather when other game was scarce, the wolves would attack in daylight.

A young boy was sent to a nearby mill to have some corn and wheat ground into meal and flour. He had been warned about tree limbs on the trail pulling him off his horse, but he was not prepared when the heavy sacks slipped off behind in going up a steep hill. He was unable to remount until someone came along and helped. A boy had been sent to do a man's work.

A young family with two children, one an infant, made the

trip to Indiana on foot in 12 days. His wife had worked out before her marriage to earn money to buy a bureau, and her father had given them a bedstead.

A second bedstead was made by boring holes in the logs of the cabin and placing poles for sides and a post for the only corner. He also made a table out of slabs and puncheons.

The new cabin had no door, no chimney, simply a roof, but it gave shelter from the weather and protection from wolves when the door was finally covered. Their second house was constructed of hewn logs, all black walnut, carefully selected and seasoned.

The woods abounded with game, and taxes were paid from the sale of coon skins and other pelts. His wife earned money with her spinning wheel and loom when she wasn't helping him burn brush or do other outdoors work. That was in addition to her regular housework and making all the

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clothing for the family. She was as good a shot as her husband, so she could go out any time and bag a wild turkey for the table.

If he could get leather from a tannery, an itinerant shoemaker came around each season to make shoes for the growing family.

The first settlers lived almost entirely on meats from wild animals — deer, turkey, occasionally a bear, and small game. Wild hogs were allowed to run free in the woods until they were 2 or 3 years old and ready to butcher.

In addition to planting corn and other crops, the flax patch was a necessity because all dressed in homespun. The process of pulling, rotting, breaking, swingling, hackling and spinning flax was both laborious and tedious.

Farm implements were rude affairs. Oxen pulled a plow called the "jumping devil" used to break new ground. It was a heavier and stouter version of the single shovel

plow. Corn was dropped by hand and covered with a hoe. Wheat was sowed broadcast and brushed in with a huge pile of brush drawn over the field by the oxen. In later years the wooden tooth harrow took the place of the brush.

Plowing among the stumps was not easy with the old wooden moldboard, but the pioneers knew no other method. The stumps were huge in some cases. A tulip poplar measured and 6½ feet in diameter in one field.

To make a living, a pioneer sometimes found it necessary to work out. He would take jobs of cutting fence rails, making shingles and clearing land. He often walked two miles and cut and split his 200 to 250 rails per day, or made 1,000 shingles, a day's work. An expert with the sickle was expected to cut 40 bundles a day, from early morning to dark for 50 cents a day. Swinging the cradle scythe all day was literally earning his bread by the sweat of his brow.

On the move in 1877

Legislative action reflected state's quick growth

NOV 26 1989 Clark, Dorothy

The year 1877 was a bustling, busy and interesting one in the State of Indiana. The General Assembly conducted its 50th regular session and from the business taken up in that august body we can tell Indiana was on the move.

The legislators gave aid to newly-formed agricultural groups. The farmers were prosperous enough by now to want to share ideas and promote county fairs and win blue ribbons and boast about their prize animals and their wives' prize baking.

The legislature regulated the prosecution of bastardy cases and provided for the support of illegitimate children. They legalized building and loan associations, and provided leadership of Camp Meeting Associations.

All 1867 laws for the incorporation of cities were repealed. New laws provided mayors and all city officers. All cities with a voting population of over 16,000 could now incur bonded indebtedness legally. A separate act legalized the incorporation of Bloomington.

In 1877, the state legislature provided for the protection of wild game such as deer, quails, prairie chickens, turtle doves, meadow larks, robins, mocking birds, blue birds, wrens, sparrows, redbirds, pewees, martins, thrushes, swallows, orioles, catbirds and yellow-hammers.

It became illegal to wantonly destroy or disturb the eggs or young of the above mentioned birds. Between January and July it was unlawful to net, trap, kill or injure woodcock. For ducks the time period was April 15 to Sept. 1.

Historically speaking



Clark retired as The Tribune-Star women's editor in 1980. She has written a local history column for 30 years. She is Vigo County Historian.

By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

Much legislation was passed concerning gravel roads. In this session, marriage was declared a civil contract between males of age 18 years and females of age 16 years, not nearer of kin than second cousins, and not having a husband or wife living. Married women owning real estate in their own right were given authority to sell it if the husband became insane or of unsound mind.

As early as 1877 it became necessary for the state body to prevent railroad freight trains from blocking any public highway or street. It became mandatory for a train to be separated at least 60 feet.

It also became unlawful for any person, other than passengers or employees, to get on or off the train, or to swing on or hang on from outside the engine or car while in motion or switching. Any Justice of the Peace could fine the offender \$10.

On March 5, 1877, the legislature decided that the charter of the Evansville & Illinois

Railroad Co. approved 1853, should be amended to change the name to Evansville & Terre Haute Railroad Co., and all properties of the companies were consolidated.

The Wabash Railroad Company, incorporated in 1851, had its charter amended in 1877.

Legislation was passed to confirm and legalize the corporate name and organization of Rose Polytechnic Institute. First named Terre Haute School of Industrial Science on Sept. 10, 1874, that name was recorded Sept. 19 in the office of the Vigo County Recorder.

It was in 1877 that short-hand reporters were authorized in Circuit, Criminal, and Superior Courts of each county where 8,000 votes were cast in state or presidential elections of 1876. The counties needed a population of 70,000 or more to qualify.

The Governor of Indiana was authorized to negotiate with the Governor of Kentucky for cession or rights to the soil of Green River Island, or to establish a boundary line between the two states at said island.

Meanwhile, here in Terre Haute, Mayor James B. Edmunds was running the town with two men from each ward serving on the city council, along with other city officials.

There were 21 churches to keep down sin, about 15 schools to educate the young, and the men could occupy their free time by attending six Masonic lodges, four Odd Fellows groups, and one each of the Knights of Pythias, Druids, Harugari, I.O.B.B., O.O.A.M., and I.O.R.M.

The men could also belong to the Ancient Order of United Workingmen, German Benevolent Society, German Hunting Club, Journeymen Tailors' Trade Union, Junior Order of United American Mechanics, Terre Haute Mannerchor and Terre Haute Turn Verein.

Four downtown banks handled the money. Two city cemeteries housed the dead, the Jewish Cemetery on the west side of First, north of Locust, and the city cemetery (Woodlawn) between First and Third, north of Third Avenue. Asa Summers was the sexton.

In 1877, the city's major buildings included Beach's Block, southeast corner Main and Sixth; Corinthian Hall, northeast corner Third and Main; Council Chamber, north side Ohio between Third and Fourth; County Jail, northwest corner Third and Walnut; Court House, northeast corner Third and Ohio (temporary quarters).

Also, Dowling Hall, west side Sixth between Main and Cherry; Fourth Street Market, northwest corner Fourth and Walnut; Gilbert's Hall, southside Main between Sixth and Seventh; Harmonia Hall, west side of Fifth between Main and Cherry; Odd Fellows' Halls, 185-187 Main and west side Third between Main and Cherry; Opera House, northeast corner Fourth and Main; Pence's Hall, southwest corner Second and Ohio; and Post Office, east side Sixth between Main and Ohio.

All have disappeared in 112 years.

1855 laws papered the state

Assembly bills built bridges, outlawed profanity

Reading the printed reports of the early Indiana General Assemblies is probably interesting only to dedicated historians. The one published in 1855 was certainly an eye-opener. The whole session only cost the taxpayers \$45,000, but there were so many appropriations that one would need a modern-day calculator to reach a complete total.

Even as today, there were expenses for printing most everything from the book to all the stationery needed by all the men and their offices. They did a lot of binding in 1855 also. Attorneys had to have copies of the new laws, the State Prison cost \$10,000, and the Governor's Mansion in the middle of the Circle at Indianapolis had to have many repairs, a new fence all around, outbuildings, stable, carriage house, wood house, due to a recent fire. There was new furniture to buy, wallpaper, etc.

One man was paid \$15 for hauling coal and cleaning spittoons for the House. His counterpart in the Senate also was paid. Bills were allowed for over \$600 for pitchers, tumblers, ink stands, brooms, buckets, matches and brushes. One man was allowed \$2 a day for splitting wood and cleaning the cellar before coal was delivered.

Wagonloads of documents were hauled back and forth. Bills for "sundries" were paid, along with a lot of tinware. A Joseph Ruppel was allowed \$200 for indexing the Revised Statutes in 1852 in German.

The heirs of William Sill were allowed \$3,000 for work, labor and materials for the use of the Wabash & Erie Canal, at the mouth of Wea Creek, Tippecanoe County.

Historically speaking



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In 1855 an Act providing for the erection and repair of bridges according to opinions of county commissioners was enacted. Every detail was worked out by the General Assembly concerning bridges in Indiana, including toll charges, signs on both ends of bridges stating: "one dollar fine for riding or driving on this bridge faster than a walk." The fine for doing so was \$1.

All persons going to or returning from any election, place of religious worship, or attending a funeral, were exempt from paying the toll.

Section 22 of the 1852 Act for incorporating towns was amended in 1855. Towns were to organize fire companies; declare what constituted a nuisance; restrain animals running at large; prohibit gambling, houses of ill fame; regulate auctions, traveling peddlers and public exhibitions; and establish and regulate markets and slaughter houses.

The new Act provided for laying out, opening, grading and improving streets, alleys, sewers, sidewalks, and crossings, and for keeping them in repair, etc. Towns

were to appoint street commissioners. They were to purchase, lay out, and establish cemeteries, to plant trees upon public ground, and along the streets of such town, and provide for their culture and preservation.

Beginning in 1855, towns had to levy and collect annual taxes, not to exceed 50 cents on the dollar valuation, and 25 cents poll tax. Another 30 cents on the dollar supported schools. Towns were mandated to complete school houses now in progress of erection, pay for them, keep them in repair, and to provide fuel and other necessities. All necessary wharves and landings for steamboats and other vessels for those towns on the banks of any navigable stream or water course were to be constructed.

Also in 1855, the General Assembly took time to enact laws to prohibit profanity. Every person 18 or older "who shall profanely curse, swear, aver, or imprecate by, or in the name of God, Jesus Christ, or the Holy Ghost, shall be deemed guilty of profanity, and, on conviction, shall be fined not less than one nor more than three dollars for each offense."

Hoosiers must have been getting rowdy in that year, because persons interfering with trains in any manner were guilty of misdemeanor. No person "shall shoot a gun, pistol, or other weapon, or throw a stone, stick, clubs, or any other substance whatever at or against any locomotive, or car, or train of cars containing persons on any railroad in this State." The fine was not less than \$10 nor more than \$100, and imprisonment in the county jail not less than 10 days nor more than three months.

If any person was injured or wounded by such an act, the offender was deemed guilty of assault, with intent to commit murder, and could be imprisoned in State's Prison for not less than one nor more than four years. If death resulted, the guilty person was punished for murder in the first degree.

The 1855 General Assembly passed legislation for the protection of the Sabbath, and provided penalties for its desecration. Any person age 14 and over found rioting, hunting, fishing, quarreling, at common labor, or engaged in the usual vocations, works of charity and necessity only excepted, on the first day of the week known as Sunday was to be fined not less than one nor more than \$10.

Exempt were those who observed the seventh day of the week as the Sabbath, travelers, families removing, keepers of toll-bridges and toll-gates, and ferrymen.

The state legislature of 1855 was concerned with everything. They paid one man \$40 for cleaning the privies, and another \$7 for furnishing glass and glazing on the State House.

They appropriated suitable sums for the State Prison, the State Library, the Institution for Education of Blind, a Hospital for the Insane, an Institution for the Education of the Deaf and Dumb, and other benevolent institutions.

Even as today, the printing houses and any firm dealing with any kind of paper profited from the sessions. Since Indiana became a State in 1816, it took a lot of paper to make the state government work.

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Journey to the Northwest

Hardy emigrants made rugged trek to new territory

JAN 13 1991

Readers who live in what was the Northwest Territory, a region of 248,000 square miles extending from the Ohio and Mississippi rivers to the Great Lakes, sometimes have no idea how the earliest settlers managed to get here.

The earliest practical route to the Northwest Territory began at Pittsburgh. Flat boats would take passengers down the Ohio River to Marietta, Cincinnati and other points.

Soon the old trails of trappers and traders developed into settlement routes. Many settlers in the South went from Staunton, Va., toward the Kanawha River which entered the Ohio River near Gallipolis.

Settlers from New England and New York State would sail from Buffalo on Lake Erie or follow the lowlands near the lake. Eventually, by allotting a percentage of the receipts from the sale of land in Ohio, Congress built a road over the mountains. Known as the National Road, it was an extension of the Cumberland Road, which connected Baltimore with Cumberland, Md., to the west. It went through Wheeling, West Va., Columbus, and Indianapolis.

All sorts of guide books were printed for the hardy emigrants. They described the routes of rivers and streams, climate, towns, population, geography and vegetation. Some settlers tried to stay in the latitude they were familiar

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Special to The Tribune-Star

with so they could plant crops that would grow successfully.

The best lands were supposed to lie under a covering of black walnut, white wood, ash, buckeye and sugar maple trees. Oak grew over gravelly or sandy loam and clays; burr oak indicated good land for growing wheat. Corn would grow very well in new ground, but if wheat were attempted before several years of corn, rye and buckwheat, the product would be worthless.

The Northwest Ordinance contained the plan of government and laid the groundwork for social and political life. Slavery was forbidden, and all people were guaranteed trial by jury and freedom of religious worship.

All males between the ages of 15 and 50 served military duty. Men over 50 were obliged to serve only in case of invasion. Each man had

to furnish his own arms, accoutrements and ammunition.

The law was posted, and within 15 to 30 days he was to provide himself with all equipment. The fine for failing to provide a musket and bayonet was five dimes; for failing to provide every pound of gun powder and four pounds of lead, he was fined two dimes and five cents.

For every cartridge box and pouch not provided, the fine was two dimes; one dime and five cents was the penalty for not providing six flints. One dime was charged for every priming wire and brush not provided.

The willful and malicious burning of a dwelling house was punished by whipping, being placed in the pillory for not more than two hours, and confinement in jail not to exceed three years. The guilty person forfeited all his estate to pay damages to the injured party. Fines, public whippings, and other punishments were set out in detail for all sorts of crimes.

Marriages could be performed for males of 17 years and females of 14 years, but parental consent was necessary for males under 21 and females under 18 years.

Although not prevalent, marital strife and divorce did occur in the 18th century. In 1790, a act was passed at Cincinnati, in the Northwest Territory, to appoint overseers of the poor. Suffering families were reported to the justice of the peace. Rather than

pay expenses of an indigent, townships passed the responsibility back and forth to other townships to avoid paying out funds.

The law also required the licensing of persons desiring to operate ferries or taverns. This license did not necessarily ensure that conditions would be favorable. When stopping for the night 11 miles from Terre Haute, Zophas Case wrote in his diary on Dec 29, 1829: "Paid Mr. Davy for sleeping on the floor and his wife blowing her nose in the bread as she mixed it up last night."

Three nights later he complained about a tavern on the St. Louis Road where he was served "tainted cabbage, spoiled venison, and fried cabbage without salt or vinegar and paid 12½ cents for sleeping on the floor."

The lack of universal currency was also a problem. Usually storekeepers would accept corn, whiskey, flour, horses, pork, beef or cash. Corn was equal to cash, as were furs and animal skins by some merchants. However, there were occasions when accounts needed to be paid in hard money. Paper currency was scarce and unreliable.

There were as many tales to tell about the journeys to the Northwest Territory as there were families who made the trek. Diaries became road maps when sent back to family members who might make the trip later.

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Community Affairs File

Salt of the earth

High prices leave bitter taste for early settlers

10 OCT 06 1991

The earliest mining in Indiana was done to supply the settlers with salt. Many traditions have been handed down from pioneer days telling of the difficulties and dangers encountered in securing a very meager supply.

Blue Licks and Big Bone Licks in Kentucky became death traps for early Kentuckians, who were lured there to boil salt and then were murdered from ambush by lurking Indians.

The Ohio Saline Springs near what is now Shawneetown, Ill., was a resort for early Hoosier settlers.

But so risky did it become for the settlers of southern Indiana to follow the forest trails to the salt springs at Shawneetown that Gov. William Henry Harrison ordered the settlers to go in parties and ask him for an escort of rangers.

This spring served Indiana for 25 years. Animals had come to this spring in earlier times and had removed the dirt to a depth of 6 to 10 feet over an area of several acres by their continuous licking.

Before the War of 1812, Indians continually lurked along the "salt road," robbing and murdering the white settlers in southwest Indiana. Salt became so scarce and high-priced that a number of settlers south of White River petitioned Harrison in 1807 for an

Historically speaking



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escort of soldiers to protect them on the trail known by some as the Salt Route and also to protect them at the salt works west of the Wabash River.

During the War of 1812, prices were exorbitant for even the necessities of life. One account states that \$6 in silver was the price for 50 pounds of salt. It was so wet that that amount would not fill a half-bushel measure, and dripped so on the horse's side that the "the bitter water" had to be washed off to keep it from removing the hair from the horse.

Indigo (blue dye) was so expensive it was necessary to put silver in one end of the scales to get its equivalent in indigo at the other end. The few persons who could afford to pay \$1 a pound for coffee could only afford to drink it on

Sunday morning.

When Indiana became a state, the national government, by an act of April 19, 1816, gave to the prospective state all the salt springs and enough land surrounding each to enable settlers to cut wood and boil the salt.

When commerce began on the Ohio River, salt was obtained from the Kanawha salt wells in western Virginia. The Michigan salt wells were not opened until just before the Civil War.

Meanwhile, salt for the northern part of Indiana came by way of the lakes from New York. Freight rates were high, and salt was costly and scarce. The people on the Wabash complained in 1829 about the high prices.

Evidences of salt springs or mines were watched for carefully by settlers. In Fulton Township, Fountain County, the first hunters found salt springs.

Norbourn Thomas entered the land in 1829, and at once began boring a salt well. The new well produced as much as 20 barrels of salt a day. By going 50 feet deep he was able to get water, which produced 50 bushels. The deeper they went, the more the salt increased. For many years these wells furnished salt for a large neighborhood.

The building of the Wabash and Erie Canal about 1850 brought cheap salt from the east and stopped the manufacture of salt at Lodi. These waters were said to contain medicinal properties.

Between 1825 and 1840 a number of salt wells were sunk on Salt Creek in Franklin County. The early hunters of Monroe County hills found springs of salt water, and in 1823, some men erected huts there and began boiling salt. This place, known as the Salt Works, became widely known and the township was named Salt Creek.

South of the National Road, throughout the hill country, there were salt springs, salt wells, or "licks" in almost every county. The best known of these were the health resorts of West Baden and French Lick, both of which were originally salt springs.

In Vanderburgh County on Big Pigeon in 1822, a salt well was sunk to a depth of about 300 feet. A valuable flow of brine was found, but later, when its depth was increased to 500 feet, the water was mixed with other properties which spoiled the salt. But the water was used for its medicinal properties for many years under the trade name of Evansville Mineral Waters.

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